

November 13, 1998

A satellite image of Hurricane Georges, showing a large, well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure. The hurricane is positioned over the Gulf of Mexico, with the Gulf Coast of the United States visible in the background. The colors of the clouds range from blue (lower clouds) to red and white (higher, more intense clouds).

Building Performance Assessment: Hurricane Georges In The Gulf Coast

Observations, Technical Guidance, Preliminary Conclusions, and Recommendations

**Preliminary
Report**



Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mitigation Directorate ■ Washington, DC

The Building Performance Assessment Process

In response to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) often deploys Building Performance Assessment Teams (BPATs) to conduct field investigations at disaster sites. The members of a BPAT include representatives of public and private sector entities who are experts in specific technical fields such as structural and civil engineering, building design and construction, and building code development and enforcement. BPATs inspect disaster-induced damages incurred by residential and commercial buildings and other manmade structures; evaluate local design practices, construction methods and materials, building codes, and building inspection and code enforcement processes; and make recommendations regarding design, construction, and code issues. With the goal of reducing the damage caused by future disasters, the BPAT process is an important part of FEMA's hazard mitigation activities. For more information about the BPAT program or if you are interested in becoming a member, please visit our website at www.fema.gov/mit/bpat.

An electronic version of the Gulf Coast Preliminary BPAT report can be found at FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/mit/bpat/rpt20.htm. The Puerto Rico Preliminary Report is also available at www.fema.gov/mit/bpat/rpt10.htm.

Cover Photograph:

Hurricane Georges at landfall, September 28, 1998, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration GOES-8 Color Enhanced IR photograph.